

# **2020 Hurricane Preparations Webinar**

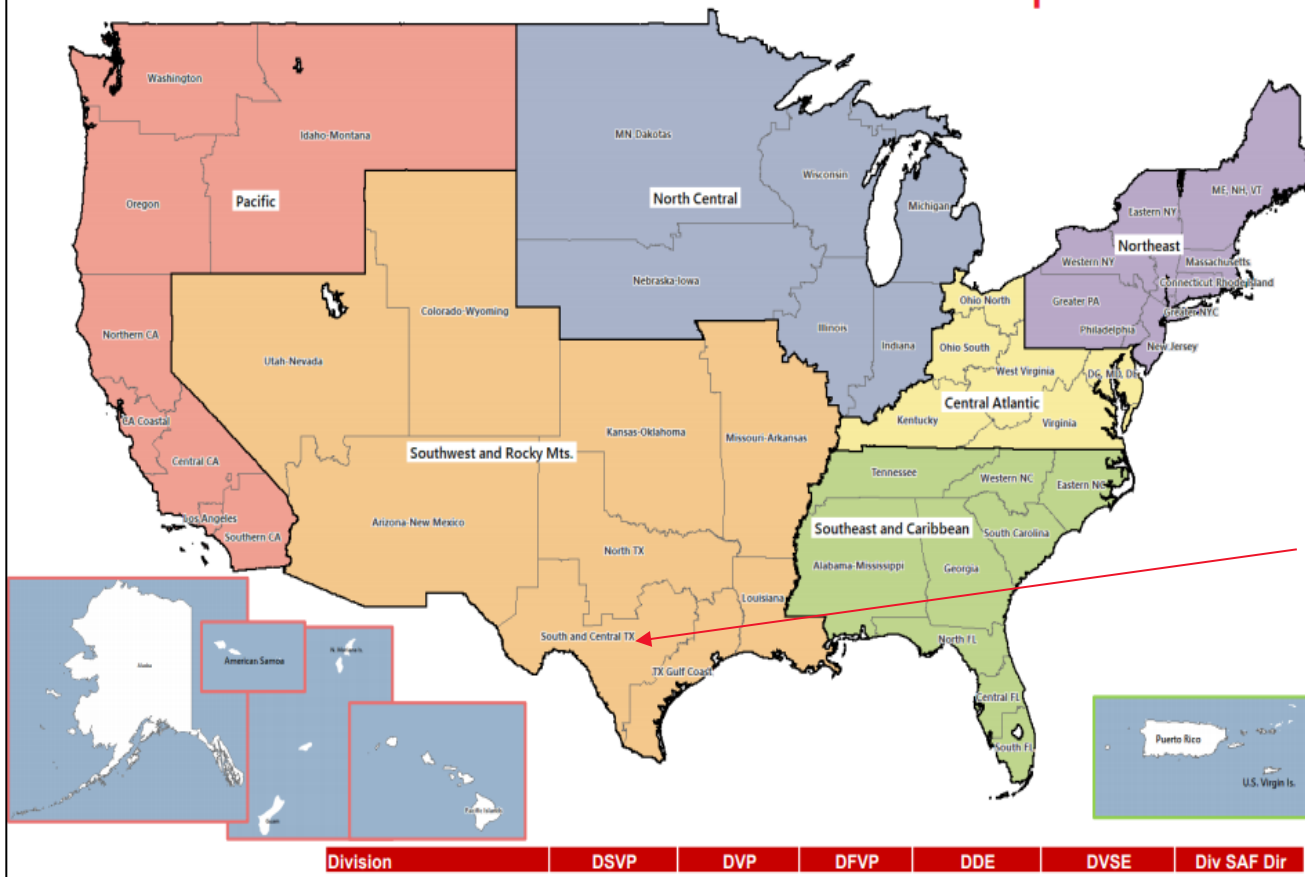
**Overview: Preparing for the SAFE Delivery of Mass Care  
Services during a Pandemic**

**Presenter: Melody Gayeski, Leadership Volunteer  
Austin, Texas**

**August 20, 2020**

The American Red Cross provides services across the country.  
Texas is part of the Southwest and Rocky Mountain Division (seen in orange).

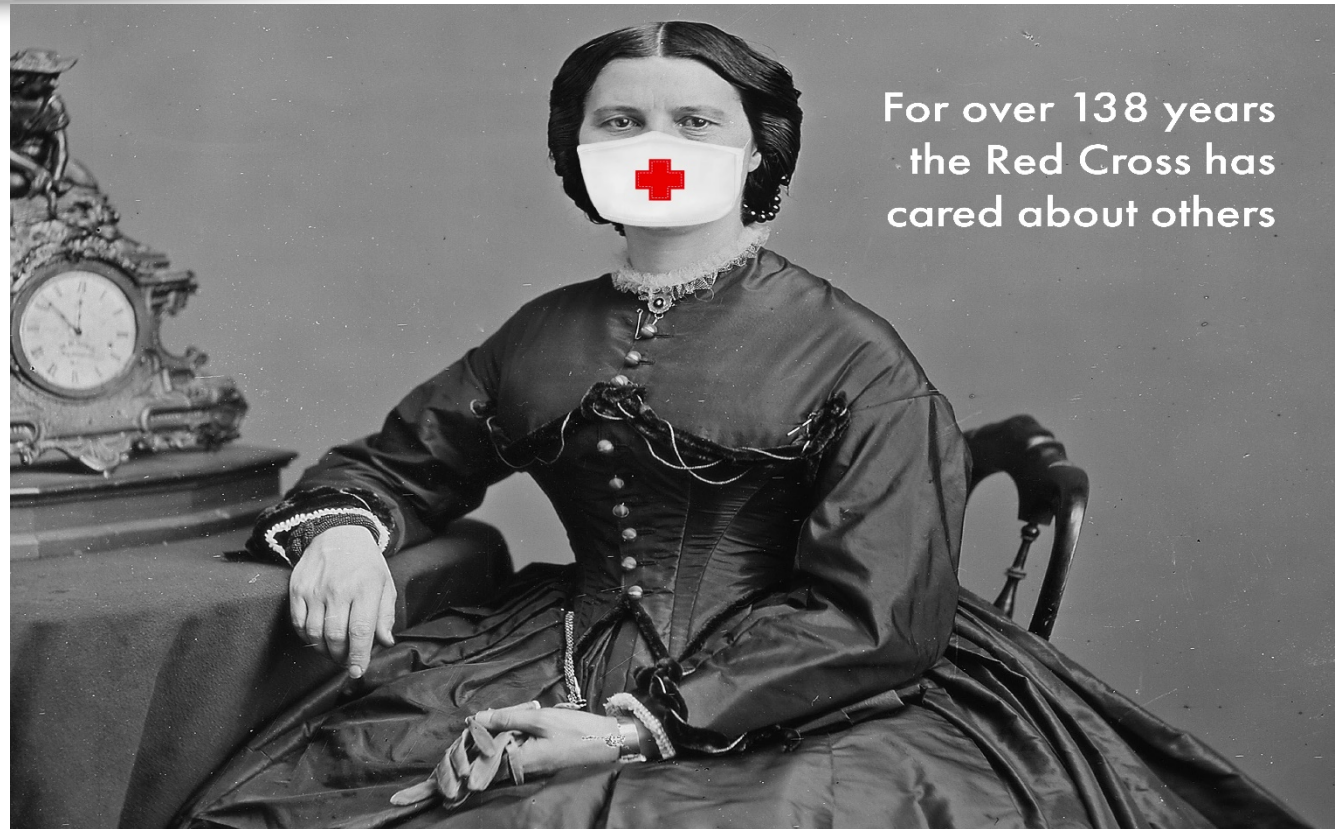
## One Red Cross Division Map



Texas is  
Divided into three (3)  
Regions:

- North Texas,
- Central & South Texas
- The Gulf Coast

**Our #1  
Priority  
Is the safety  
of our  
Workforce,  
Volunteers,  
Partners and  
Clients**



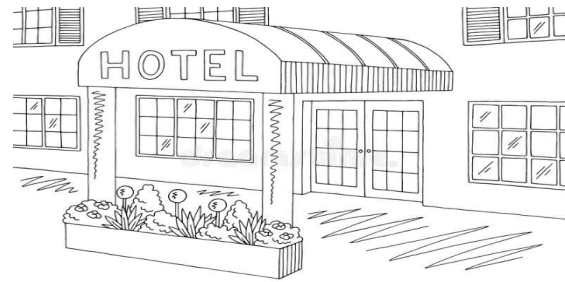
For over 138 years  
the Red Cross has  
cared about others

*Clara Barton, Founder*

- ❖ Keeping shelter residents and workforce safe in a shelter during COVID requires some adjustments to procedures.
- ❖ Recommendations follow Center of Disease Control (CDC) Guidance and best Public Health Practices.

# Sheltering Options

- **Non-Congregate Shelters** – provided to individuals and families as sheltering using hotels, motels, campsites, trailers, RVs, college dormitories, retreat camps, etc. Provides better separation of living space and privacy



- **Congregate Shelters** – provided to individuals and families for group sheltering using community facilities such as community centers, gymnasiums, etc. and includes shelters of all sizes. It is preferable to open a higher number of low-occupancy shelters to accommodate appropriate social distancing

## ***Congregate Shelters:***

### ***Strategies to minimize spread of COVID-19***

Screening and access control with shelter entry barriers	Increased sanitation activities	Social distancing	Isolation care area	Smaller than normal staff	Smaller client capacity
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***The following supplies augment standard material resources to ensure safety to shelter residents and workers***

Protection	Screening	Isolation Care	Cleaning
N95 masks	Thermometers	Gowns	Hand sanitizers
Face masks		Goggles or Face Shields	Hand soaps
		Gloves	Cleaning wipes (like Clorox wipes)



Resource: Red Cross Shelter Guidelines COVID-19 Supplies and Kits: pp. 28-31  
COVID-19 Non-Congregate Sheltering pp. 90-99

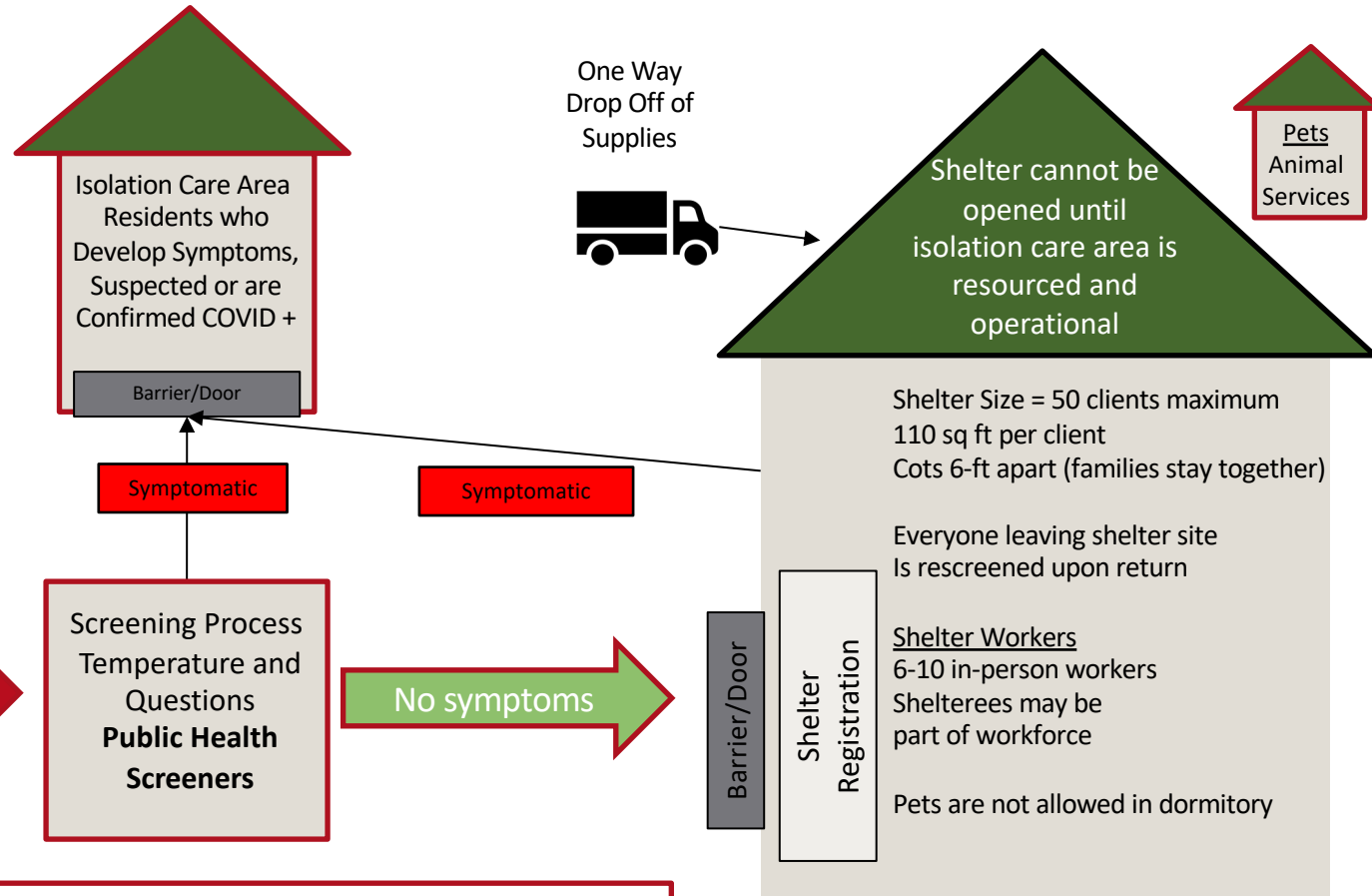
# Screening & Shelter Flow

## Tornado/Flood/Fire

Event caused need for emergency sheltering

Plan for less than 14 days

Align with Public Health guidance



- Screen everyone, including visitors and staff, prior to entering shelter
  - Control shelter entrance and exit 24/7 to ensure everyone gets screened
  - Assign trained screeners
- Licensing not required



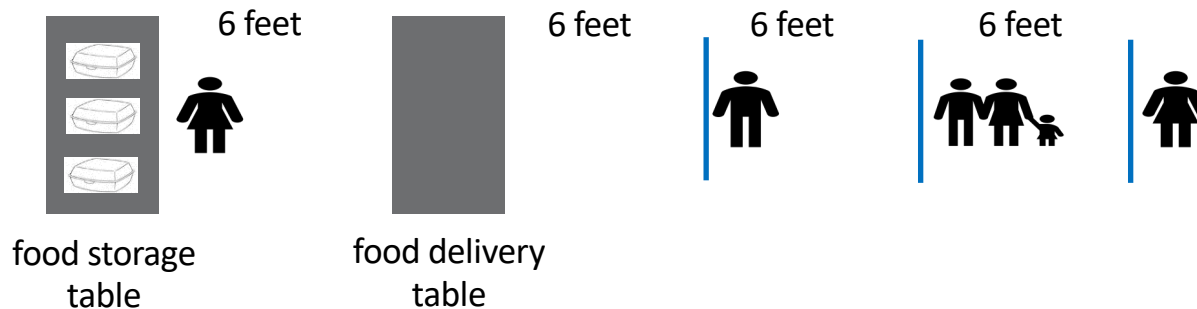
## Resource:

Red Cross Shelter Guidelines  
COVID-19 Shelter Health Screening Area  
pp. 93-94

# Safe Feeding Guidance



- Provide Individually Packaged Meals
- Utilize local vendors to provide specialized meals to clients who require them based on dietary, cultural, or religious requirements
- Follow safe food handling guidelines
- Clean all surfaces with sanitizing spray, wipes or bleach solution every 2 hours during feeding times. Also before and after every meal
- Use the “set it down and step back” method when delivering face coverings, food or supplies after you ask which meal they need (standard, vegetarian, gluten free, etc.)



# Maintain Social Distancing when Loading Supplies and Traveling

## ***Loading a truck with supplies....***

- If the vehicle has a single ‘cab’, only the driver will travel in the truck
  - A chase car with the 2<sup>nd</sup> worker will be utilized
- Be sure to wipe down all surfaces you would normally touch before entering
- Both workers will wear a mask, gloves and maintain social distancing
- Use the ‘set it down, step back’ methodology for loading and unloading
- Be sure to wipe down all of the surfaces inside the vehicle when you finish your trip

## ***When traveling inside of a car, a maximum of two (2) workers are allowed***

- Be sure to wipe down all surfaces you would normally touch before entering
- Both workers will wear a mask and maintain social distancing
- The passenger should sit in the back seat on the passenger side of the vehicle
- Be sure to wipe down all of the surfaces again when you finish your trip



## Turn Compassion Into Action

Volunteers carry out 90% of the humanitarian work of the American Red Cross. During this hurricane and wildfire season, it is more important than ever to get involved sooner rather than later. We are actively searching for volunteers willing to respond to emergencies, both in-person and virtually. It is through the efforts of ordinary people that we can do extraordinary things. Please consider joining our sheltering team today!



## Volunteers urgently needed for the following positions in your community:

### Mass Care Sheltering Responder

Help provide a safe, welcoming place for people fleeing natural disasters!

### Mass Care Sheltering Supervisor

Leads a team in creating a safe space for people to recover post-disaster.

### Disaster Health Services Supervisor

Leads a team to care for the health needs of sheltered clients. Special qualifications required.

### Disaster Health Services Responder

Helps provide care and attention to the health needs of clients. Special qualifications required.

Interested? Send a note to **[CSTR@redcross.org](mailto:CSTR@redcross.org)** with which opportunity you want to get started with!



## Resources – Training for *New Shelter Workers*

For partners who do not have any shelter training or experience, we recommend 3 Red Cross classes available on YouTube:

**1. Shelter Fundamentals v2 and Shelter Fundamentals Forms Training – 57 min.**

<https://youtu.be/jwgBgG4s6Mo>

**2. Sheltering in a COVID-19 Environment – 21 min.**

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=pKpvlBbbYQc>

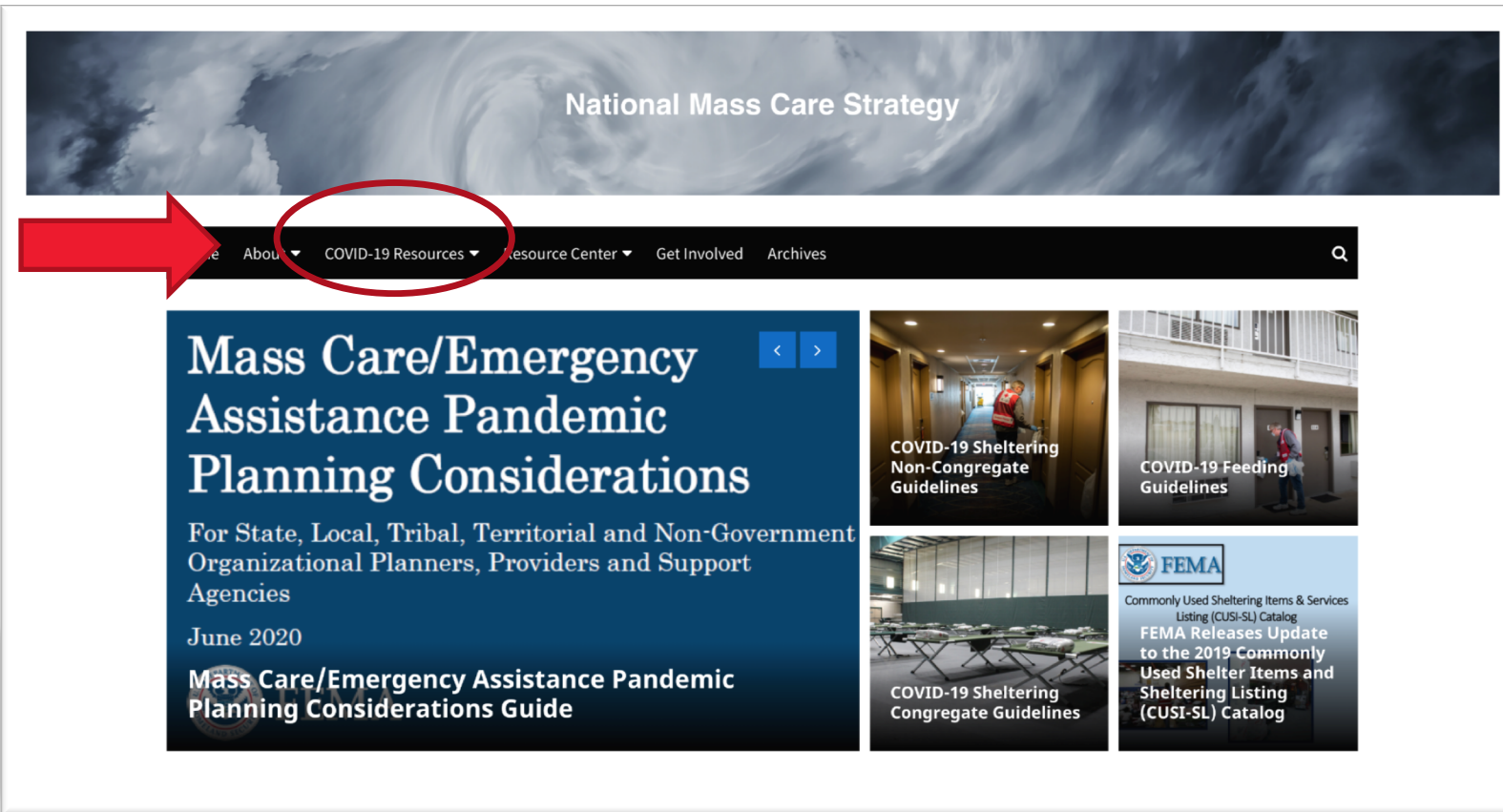
**3. COVID-19 Shelter Assignments – 14 min.**

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=lz3mLhj5HP4>

# Additional Resources

**AMERICAN RED CROSS AND OTHER PUBLICALLY  
AVAILABLE INFORMATION**

# COVID-19 Sheltering Guidance is Publicly Available to Partners



The screenshot displays the National Mass Care Strategy website. The header features the title "National Mass Care Strategy" over a cloudy sky background. Below the header is a dark navigation bar with a search icon on the right and several menu items: "Home", "About", "COVID-19 Resources", "Resource Center", "Get Involved", and "Archives". A red arrow points to the "COVID-19 Resources" menu item, which is also circled in red. The main content area includes a large blue banner for "Mass Care/Emergency Assistance Pandemic Planning Considerations" dated June 2020, intended for state, local, tribal, territorial, and non-governmental planners. To the right of the banner are four smaller tiles: "COVID-19 Sheltering Non-Congregate Guidelines", "COVID-19 Feeding Guidelines", "COVID-19 Sheltering Congregate Guidelines", and a FEMA tile titled "Commonly Used Sheltering Items & Services Listing (CUSI-SL) Catalog" with a sub-header "FEMA Releases Update to the 2019 Commonly Used Shelter Items and Sheltering Listing (CUSI-SL) Catalog".

Resource: <http://nationalmasscarestrategy.org/>

# Websites available to everyone\*\*

- National Mass Care Strategy Website:  
<https://nationalmasscarestrategy.org/>
- American Red Cross (Covid19 guidance – available to the public  
<https://nationalmasscarestrategy.org/covid-19-sheltering-guidelines/>
- Center for Disease Control Website:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

\*\* Copy and paste the website details into your browser